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Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

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STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Preamble:

Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well being of society.

The purpose of this student bill of rights and responsibilities is to enumerate the essential provisions for student freedom and the responsibilities which go with these liberties as established by the Board of Regents of Texas Eastern University.

Due process procedures for the protection of the freedoms and rights and for the accountability of responsibilities have been established. These procedures in which students, faculty, and administrators are represented are given in the Student Due Process procedures.

Student Rights and Freedoms

I. Right of Access to Higher Education

Under no circumstances should a student be barred from admission to Texas Eastern University on the basis of color, race, religion, sex or national origin. Thus, within the limits of its facilities, the university should be open to all students who are qualified according to its admission standards.

II. Right of Proper Evaluation of Academic Performance

Student grades will be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic situations. The student has the right to know in advance, the criteria on which his scholastic work is to be evaluated.

III. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

Students will be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled.

Students and student organizations will be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately.

Students will be free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and normal operation of the institution, and which comply with the regulations that relate to student activities and conduct. At the same time, it should be made clear to the educational and the larger community that in their public expressions, students or student organizations speak only for themselves.

IV. Freedom from Improper Disclosures

Student records are protected by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Federal Law 93-380). Transcripts of academic records will contain only information about academic status, except that disciplinary action taken against a student which affects his eligibility to re-register with the institution may be recorded.

Information from disciplinary or counseling files will not be made available to unauthorized persons on the campus or to any person off campus without the expressed consent of the student involved, except under legal compulsion.

No records will be kept for the purpose of reflecting the activities or beliefs of students.

Administrators, staff, and faculty will respect confidential information about students which they acquire in the course of their work.

V. Freedom of Associations.

The students of Texas Eastern University shall have freedom to organize and join associations to promote their common interests in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Regents of Texas Eastern University.

All student organizations will be open to all students without respect to color, race, religion, sex, or national origin. Student organizations will be subject to the policies and procedures established by the Student Life Office.

VI. Freedom to Participate in Institutional Affairs

As constituents of the educational community, students will be free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of institutional policy and on matters of general interest to the student body. The student body shall not be denied clearly defined means to participate and to express their views concerning any formulation and application of institutional policy affecting academic and student affairs.

VII. Rights as Citizens

As citizens, students enjoy the same freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and the right of petition that other citizens enjoy.

Students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities, but institutional authority will never be used merely to duplicate the function of general laws. Only where the institution's interests as an academic community are distinctly and clearly involved should the special authority of the institution be asserted.

VIII. Retained Rights

The enumeration of the above rights and responsibilities shall in no way be interpreted as denying the existence of other rights and responsibilities which a student holds as a student or citizen.

Responsibilities

I. Responsibility to Avoid Disrupting the Educational Process

Students are responsible collectively and individually for allowing other students to continue in their pursuit of education. All students must be allowed to pursue education, employment, or other particular interests without having undue restrictions placed upon them by activities of other students.

II. Responsibility to Avoid Infringing Upon Rights of Others

When exercising his right of inquiry or expression, the student must not infringe upon the rights of other students or disrupt the educational process.

III. Responsibility to Pursue Requests Through Established Channels of Communication

When approaching the administration about any matter, students must go through the established lines of authority. Questions concerning the proper procedure may be directed to the Dean of Student Life.

IV. Responsibility to Comply with Institutional Regulations

Students have the responsibility to comply with all regulations established by the Board of Regents of Texas Eastern University and the laws of the state governing student conduct, and such regulations and laws as may now exist or may be subsequently enacted and adopted shall have precedence over the provisions of this document.

V. Responsibility for Class Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance in classes is expected by the university, but responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. However, faculty members will inform students of class attendance policies.

The responsibility for missed class assignments rests with the student.

VI. Responsibility for Scholastic Honesty

The responsibility for scholastic honesty rests with the student. Any act of scholastic dishonesty may result in disciplinary proceedings to be initiated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on examinations, plagiarism, and collusion.

Academic dishonesty and disciplinary proceedings are formally defined in the Student's Due Process Code.